

The following list of claims replaces any prior listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended)        A gateway device placed on the site of a phone switching station, comprising:

        a plurality of communication lines lines to be connected to a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber;

        a ~~voice communication unit~~ communication line type dependent signal processing unit operable to perform the signal processing in accordance with the type of the communication line. and to perform voice communication with said telephone equipment through said communication line;

        an identifier generation unit operable to generate a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment;

        a conversion unit operable to convert voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa; ~~and~~

        a packet transmitter receiver unit operable to transmit and receive said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient identifier[[]]; and

a TDSW module that serves to perform a time division multiplexing process in order to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange.

2. (Original)        The gateway device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising: a determination unit operable in order that said voice signals are output to a subscriber line

exchange without conversion into packet signals depending upon said intended recipient identifier.

3. (Original)           The gateway device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said determination unit is provided with a subscriber database for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier, and searches said subscriber database on the basis of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result.

4. (Currently Amended)       A voice conversation system for use in voice conversation through a phone switching station with a telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber, comprising:

        a plurality of communication line lines to be connected to a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber;

        a ~~voice communication unit~~ communication line type dependent signal processing unit operable in the phone switching station side to perform the signal processing in accordance with the type of the communication line, and to perform voice communication with said telephone equipment through said communication line;

        an identifier generation unit operable in the phone switching station side to generate a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment;

a conversion unit operable to convert voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa; and

a packet transmitter receiver unit operable in the phone switching station side to transmit and receive said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient identifier[[]]; and

a TDSW module that serves to perform a time division multiplexing process in order to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange.

5. (Original)           The voice conversation system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising an access multiplexer operable to transmit and receive the digital signals separated as packet signals from signals which are transmitted and received through said communication line.

6. (Original)           The voice conversation system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising a determination unit operable in order that said voice signals are output to a subscriber line exchange without conversion into packet signals depending upon said intended recipient identifier.

7. (Original)           The voice conversation system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said determination unit is provided with a subscriber database for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier, and searches said subscriber database on the basis of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result.

8. (Currently Amended) A voice conversation method for use in voice conversation through a phone switching station with a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber, comprising:

~~a step of~~ transmitting and receiving voice signals in the phone switching station side through a plurality of communication lines connected to said a plurality of telephone equipment; selecting a communication network to be connected based on the basis of a control signal from the telephone equipment;

~~a step of~~ generating a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment, and converting voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa in the phone switching station side; and

~~a step of~~ transmitting and receiving said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient identifier- as selected communication network in the phone switching station side[.]; and

processing a signal in accordance with the type of the communication line of the intended recipient as selected, and performing a time division multiplexing process to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange in the phone switching station side.

9. (Currently Amended) The voice conversation method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the digital signals separated from signals which are transmitted and received through said

communication line are transmitted and received as packet signals in the phone switching station side when transmitting and receiving voice signals.

10. (Original)        The voice conversation method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said voice signals are output to a subscriber line exchange in the phone switching station side without conversion into packet signals depending upon said intended recipient identifier.

11. (Currently Amended)        The voice conversation method as claimed in claim 8 wherein, in the phone switching station side,

        a subscriber database is provided for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier, and

        said subscriber database is searched on the basis of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result when selecting a communication network.